

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner points to the term “at least partially dried vaginal discharge” in claim 1 as lacking adequate explanation; and the term “identifying high-risk, intermediate-risk and low-risk human papillomaviruses” in claim 6 as lacking sufficient description. In response, claim 1 is amended to delete “at least”, and claim 6 is cancelled. Claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1, contain the limitations of claim 1, and now recite “air-dried vaginal discharge.”

Accordingly, the amendment to claims 1-11 renders moot the rejection of the claims as failing to comply with the written restriction requirement. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for a method of testing for the presence of all infectious disease agents. The Examiner, however, admits that the claimed method is enabling for a method of testing for the presence of human papillomavirus. In response, the applicants has amended the claims to recite that the claimed method of testing is for the presence of human papillomavirus or host genetic markers. Claims 7 and 8 are amended to correct an error in antecedent basis. Claims 10 and 11 are cancelled in the present amendment.

Accordingly, the amendment to claims 1-3 and 7-11 renders moot the rejection of the claims as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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